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THE AMERICAN MUSEUM JOURNAL

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THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY was established in 1869 to promote the Natural Sciences and to diffuse a general knowledge of them among the people, and it is in cordial coöperation with all similar institutions throughout the world. The Museum authorities are dependent upon private subscriptions and the dues from members for procuring needed additions to the collections and for carrying on explorations in America and other parts of the world.

The membership fees are,

Annual Members.....	$ 10	Fellows.....	$ 500
Life Members.....	100	Patrons.....	1000

All money received from membership fees is used for increasing the collections and for developing the educational work of the Museum.

The Museum is open free to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Admittance is free to Members every day.

THE COLUMBIAN MAMMOTH

(*Elephas Columbi*)

A nearly entire skeleton, 10 feet 6 inches high at the shoulders, from near Jonesboro, Indiana. Exhibited in Hall No. 406

The American Museum Journal

VOL. VII JANUARY, 1907 No. 1

THE present number of the AMERICAN MUSEUM JOURNAL marks a change in the policy of the magazine. In order to emphasize the news features of the periodical and make it a more satisfactory medium of communication with the Members of the Museum, the JOURNAL is to be issued monthly from October to May, inclusive, instead of quarterly, as at present. The guide leaflets will cease to form an integral part of the publication, but they will continue to be issued at intervals, and copies of them will be sent free to Members upon request made to the Director.

The guide leaflet now in press is No. 23 of the series and is entitled "Peruvian Mummies and what they Teach." The book has been prepared by Mr. C. W. Mead, assistant curator of the Department of Ethnology, and is intended as an introduction to the study of the Peruvian Hall (No. 302 of the third, or gallery, floor of the Museum). Non-members of the Museum may obtain the pamphlet for ten cents at the entrance to the building or by writing to the Librarian.

RECEPTION TO COMMANDER PEARY.

SATURDAY afternoon, December 8, by invitation of President Jesup and the members of the Peary Arctic Club Commander Peary gave in the auditorium of the Museum the first public account of his remarkable exploring expedition to the latest "farthest north." The thrilling story of the voyage of the "Roosevelt" and the dash for the Pole was told with the aid of numerous lantern slide illustrations. The personality of the speaker and the pictures added much to the vividness of the account, the bare outlines of which were already familiar to the audience through newspaper accounts. Before the lecture the Trustees of the Museum, many of the chief state and city officials, the members of the Peary Arctic Club, the officers of the American Geographical Society and the New York Historical Soci-

ety, the staff of the Museum and other scientists and educators of the City and vicinity met Mr. Peary in the Board Room of the Museum by invitation of Mr. Jesup, while after the lecture Mr. Peary held an informal public reception in the auditorium.

The great desire of the people of New York to see, hear and shake hands with the intrepid explorer was manifested by the attendance at the Museum of thousands of visitors, who packed not only the auditorium but also the adjacent exhibition halls with a multitude that greeted Mr. Peary enthusiastically when he was introduced to his audience by the President and as he walked through the Museum after the lecture under the escort of the Director.

A ZOÖLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA.

DURING last July and August Dr. Alexander V. Ruthven of Michigan University made a trip in the interests of the American Museum to southern New Mexico and Arizona, for the purpose of studying the reptiles and batrachians of those regions. He was accompanied by Mr. G. von Krochow of the Museum staff. The territory about Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Tuscon, Arizona, was explored in detail. In each of these localities there is a variety of habitats, ranging from the lower, arid deserts to the more humid, forest-crowned summits of the adjacent mountain ranges. Field stations under different environmental conditions were established, where, after noting the physical factors and vegetation of each habitat, the reptile and amphibian life was determined by careful collecting.

As a result of this work it was established that the reptile and amphibian life of each habitat was characteristic, as has been shown for some other animals and for plants. Notes were made on the habits of the different forms to determine their relationship to the environment with which they have been found associated, observations on food habits being supplemented by examinations of the contents of many stomachs, which have been carefully labeled and preserved.

About 1,000 specimens of cold-blooded vertebrates were secured for the Museum, besides a small collection of invertebrates, consisting principally of ants, molluscs and parasitic worms. Several valuable

specimens of lizards are represented in the collection by extensive series. The results of this expedition are now being worked up in several papers, the molluscs by Mr. Bryant Walker, the vertebrates by Dr. Ruthven.

THE SKELETON OF THE COLUMBIAN MAMMOTH.

ONE of the most recent additions to the collections in the Hall of Vertebrate Palæontology is a skeleton of the Mammoth, *Elephas columbi*. This skeleton shows that the Mammoth had a very short back and long legs. Its body was not as massive as that of the Mastodon, and the pelvis is proportionately narrower. The head was carried more erect than that of the Mastodon, and the tusks, which point down at first, then curve forward and upward and completely cross at their points. The tusks of the Mastodon, on the other hand, continue farther downward before bending upward, and their distal portions turn outward.

During the middle Pleistocene or Glacial Period three well-known species of Mammoth inhabited North America. The Siberian mammoth, *Elephas primigenius*, was abundant in the northern part of America, and bodies of animals of this species have been found in the ice and frozen ground of Alaska, the flesh and hair still preserved intact. The Imperial Mammoth, *Elephas imperator*, inhabited the southern United States and its remains are found in Texas. The third species, the Columbian Mammoth, *Elephas columbi*, inhabited the greater part of the United States, and its range extended as far southwest as Mexico.

Teeth and bones of the last-named species have been identified from many localities, but the specimen now under consideration is the most nearly complete skeleton yet mounted in this country. This skeleton was found on the farm of D. C. Gift, four miles east of Jonesboro, Indiana. That part of Grant County is level and was originally swampy and had to be drained. While enlarging a drainage canal across a part of the farm, a tenant encountered the skeleton only eight feet below the surface, where it lay articulated, with its bones in position just as the animal had fallen after becoming mired in the old swamp. The feet were not found, having been perhaps scraped out and lost during the first opening of the drain, hence the lower parts of the limbs and the

feet have been restored from casts of a skeleton of *Elephas primigenius* which is in the Paris Museum of Natural History.

The following measurements show the size of this unique specimen:

Length, tips of tusks to vertical line of tail,	17	feet	9½	inches.
" base " " " " " " " "	13	"	3½	"
Height at shoulders,	10	"	6	"
Length of right tusk (outside curve),	11	"	4½	"

DEPARTMENT OF VERTEBRATE PALÆONTOLOGY; FIELD EXPEDITIONS OF 1906.

THE Department of Vertebrate Palæontology had three expeditions in the field last summer. The first, under Mr. Barnum Brown, continued the hunt for dinosaurs in the Upper Cretaceous deposits of Montana. A fine skeleton of the Duck-billed Dinosaur *Claosaurus* and several less complete specimens of these strange looking animals were secured. The Museum now possesses two mountable skeletons and an excellent skull, representing three distinct kinds of Duck-billed Dinosaurs, besides many less complete specimens. Mr. Brown also discovered remains of a large dinosaur which appears to be entirely new to science and of a small species related to the Bird-catching Dinosaur of the Jurassic period. The remarkable variety of dinosaurs from the Upper Cretaceous, most of them of huge size and bizarre appearance, is a great incentive towards continuing the search for them with especial vigor. It is hoped that the final results will enable the Museum to fill an entire exhibition hall with the dinosaurs of this period. In addition to the dinosaur remains a few specimens of the minute and very rare Upper Cretaceous mammals were secured.

The second expedition, under Mr. Walter Granger, continued the exploration of the Eocene formations of Wyoming, working this year principally in the Washakie Basin. A number of fine specimens were obtained of the characteristic large mammals of this formation, the *Eobasileus*, largest and last of the uintathere race, *Amynodon*, the first of the rhinoceroses, *Achænodon*, a gigantic pig-like animal, *Patriofelis*, a large and powerful carnivore, and of the Eocene ancestors of the Titanotheres, besides skulls and skeletons of several of the smaller

carnivora, rodents and other forms. Many of these will be new to science and all of them will aid greatly in filling out our collections from the later Eocene. Mr. Granger paid much attention to the stratigraphy of the formation, and the origin of the materials composing it, obtaining data which, with the collections of fossils secured at different levels, will enable us to fix accurately the time relations of the Washakie to the Bridger and Uinta formations (Middle and Upper Eocene).

SCENE IN WASHAKIE BASIN

The third expedition was conducted by Mr. Albert Thomson in the Lower Miocene of South Dakota. The formations of this age in the Western States are in general very barren of fossil mammals and have been but little explored, although the formations above and beneath them have yielded large collections to the explorations of the past half-century. By dint of diligent and thorough search Mr. Thomson succeeded in getting from these unpromising beds a considerable collection of skulls and skeletons, nearly all of them new to science and representing an intermediate stage between the Oligocene and later Miocene.

Among the interesting novelties of this collection is a fragmentary skeleton of a gigantic Wolverene as large as a jaguar or a black bear.

It was much the largest of the weasel family and was a truly formidable beast of prey, if it possessed the savage and bloodthirsty disposition of its modern relatives.

Professor Osborn, under whose directions the expeditions were sent out, visited all the parties during the summer and gathered valuable data for his studies upon the stratigraphy and relative age of the Tertiary formations. Dr. Matthew was with Mr. Thomson's expedition during the first half of the summer, and Mr. Gregory was of the party in the latter part of the season.

THE SELMA METEORITE.

THE collection of meteorites in the foyer of the Museum has recently been enriched by the addition of an aërolite, or stone meteorite, which was found in March, 1906, about two miles north-northwest of Selma, Alabama, near the road to Summerfield. The fortunate finder was Mr. J. W. Coleman of that city.

Mr. Coleman states his belief that the meteorite fell on July 20, 1898. At about 9 o'clock of the evening of that day at least five observers at different stations from half a mile to two and one half miles from where the stone was found saw a brilliant meteor pass through the air leaving a "trail of fire ten or twelve feet long." The meteor seems to have traveled in a direction somewhat west of north, and its flight is said to have been accompanied by a heavy, rumbling noise. No other similar meteorite has been noted in the immediate region, and this meteorite does not seem to show any more decomposition of surface than might have taken place in the eight years that have elapsed since the date of its assumed fall. The identity of this find with the shooting star of July 20, 1898, cannot of course be established with certainty, but it seems probable.

This meteorite, photographs of which are reproduced in this number of the JOURNAL, is one of the ten largest aërolites ever found. Most such bodies break to pieces in the earth's atmosphere, probably on account of unequal heating due to friction against the air, and shatter into scores and even hundreds or thousands of fragments before they reach the ground, and this is the largest entire aërolite now in the United States.

THE SELMA METEORITE

Weight, 306 lbs. Front or "Brustseite."

U of M

The Selma, as this meteorite will be called, is 20½ inches high, 20 inches wide and 14 inches thick, and it weighs 306 pounds (138.6 kilos). A piece of perhaps four pounds weight has been lost from the mass,

THE SELMA METEORITE
Rear view.

hence it is probable that the original weight was 310 pounds. It has lain buried in the ground where it fell for several years, so that the original glassy crust has been largely decomposed and washed away, and the characteristic "thumb-mark" pittings have been partly obscured. Some portions, however, remain as an indication of its original condi-

THE SELMA METEORITE
Views of opposite edges.

tion. In shape the meteorite is roughly polygonal, without pronounced orientation features, though it seems probable that the side shown on page 9 was the "brustseite," or front, during flight through the atmosphere. The mass is deeply penetrated by cracks on both sides, but principally on the rear. The cracks do not radiate from one or more centers, nor is the apparent rigidity of the mass affected by them; hence they do not seem to have been caused by shattering due to impact with the earth. The position and character of the fissures indicate that they were due to unequal heating through friction with the air during flight through the atmosphere, the tension produced being insufficient to cause complete fracture.

Macroscopic examination of a cut and polished fragment shows the stone to have a dark brownish-gray color, and to be made up of spherical or nearly spherical "chondrules," or particles, firmly imbedded in a similar matrix. The largest chondrules are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 mm) in diameter, though those more than one half as large are rare. A strong magnifying glass is needed to show one the minute grains of iron scattered through the mass.

The specific gravity of the stone is 3.42 as determined upon a fragment weighing 4.56 ounces (129.4 g) and showing some effects of decomposition. A chemical analysis of the material has not yet been made, but Dr. G. P. Merrill of the National Museum has had sections cut and polished and has published a brief scientific description of the meteorite in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum for 1906, where he gives the find the name which we have adopted.

E. O. Hovey.

MUSEUM NEWS NOTES.

At the autumn meeting of the Board of Trustees President Jesup reported that since the last meeting of the Board important gifts had been received, as follows:

From Mr. Arthur Curtiss James, for mural decorations in the Eskimo Hall, and for field explorations for fossil horses;

From Mr. George S. Bowdoin, for the development of the Cetacea Collection;

From Mr. Samuel V. Hoffman, for an entomological expedition to the Black Mountains of North Carolina;

From Mr. JAMES R. KEENE, the skeleton of his famous race horse "Sysonby;"

From Mrs. F. K. STURGIS an additional contribution for the purchase of Birds of Paradise;

From Mr. FRANCIS R. APPLETON for exploration for fossil horses;

From Mr. A. C. CLARKSON, the library and entomological collection of the late Mr. Frederick Clarkson.

PROFESSORS J. A. ALLEN AND HENRY F. OSBORN represented the Museum at the autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences which was held in Boston on November 20–22 in the new buildings of the Harvard Medical School. At this meeting Professor Osborn presented two papers, one on "Section of American Tertiaries," and the other on "A Complete Mounted Skeleton of the Finback Lizard *Naosaurus* of the Permian." Among the extensive series of exhibits displayed at the conversazione held in connection with the meeting there were the following by Professor Osborn: (1) Recent restorations of extinct horses of North America, executed by Charles R. Knight, under direction of Henry F. Osborn, water-colors, photographs; (2) first complete section of the American Tertiaries,— a preliminary study.

UPON receipt of the telegrams announcing the "farthest north" attained by Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. N., the Arctic explorer, a temporary exhibit was installed pertaining to Mr. Peary's Arctic work. One of his sledges harnessed to four mounted specimens of the dogs which he used on one of his earlier expeditions together with a figure dressed in Arctic clothing showed the means of transportation employed by the explorer. On the sledge was one of the sleeping-bags so essential to existence in the Arctic regions. On a neighboring table were shown photographs of Peary's steamer, the "Roosevelt," together with photographs of the explorer and his party. The question as to how Peary determined his position was answered by the display of a sextant for determining latitude and a chronometer for determining longitude used by General Greely in his famous polar work and abandoned by him at Fort Conger. On a section of a globe nearby illustrating the north polar regions, Peary's route to the farthest north position was shown by means of colored cord.

AMONG recent acquisitions to the Department of Mineralogy special mention should be made of a large series of nuggets and coarse gravel

Gold from placer diggings in Alaska aggregating about 4 pounds troy in weight; a wonderful crystal and a magnificent group of ruby-red Tourmaline (Rubellite) of gem quality and deep color from the noted locality at Pala near San Diego, California; and a block of quartzite from New South Wales bearing a surface of more than 90 square inches of Precious Opal.

TUESDAY, October 30, the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals held its annual meeting in the West Assembly Hall.

THE Museum recently acquired by purchase a fine collection from the Samoan Islands. Among other things this contains a complete outfit for the manufacture of bark or "tapa" cloth. In the manufacture of this cloth, single strips of bark from a species of mulberry are prepared by scraping and soaking in water, after which they are beaten out very thin by means of small wooden clubs. These thin sheets, while still wet, are laid one over another and the whole beaten together to form a large sheet of uniform thickness. Such bark cloth is in some respects a kind of paper, but it is serviceable as cloth since it is not easily damaged by water. The finished cloth is often ornamented by printing, or rather rubbing. For this purpose designs in relief are carved on wood or built up of palm-leaf cuttings, upon which the cloth is laid and rubbed with sticks of coloring matter, like crayon. This leaves an impression of the raised portion of the carving similar to that produced when a school-boy rubs the impression of a coin into the fly-leaf of his book. Aside from the tapa outfit, the collection contains several handsome pieces of finished cloth and a number of costumes, household utensils and other implements. It is proposed to install this collection together with other material in the Museum as a special exhibit from one of the colonial possessions of the United States.

DR. E. O. HOVEY of the Department of Geology returned in the latter part of October from the convention in Mexico of the Tenth International Geological Congress to which he was sent as the delegate of the Museum. The convention met in Mexico City September 6 to 14, inclusive, and was attended by many of the prominent geologists of Europe as well as of the United States. Dr. Hovey brought back with him a large series of specimens of ores, rocks and fossils and many photographs (negatives) for the Museum collections.

A VALUABLE collection of the co-types of the ants obtained by Professor Filippi Sylvestri of Naples in a trip across South America some years ago has been presented to the Museum by the collector. The corresponding type collection was described by Professor Carlo Emery of Bologna.

THE great Scudder collection of fossil ants from Florissant, Colorado, has been loaned to the Museum for study and description. The collection consists of more than 4,000 specimens representing about 40 species. None of these species has been described, and there is ample material for the work. The specimens are almost entirely males and females which dropped into the Tertiary lake of Florissant while on their nuptial flight. Practically no workers are represented in the series.

LECTURES.

LEGAL HOLIDAY COURSE.

UPON the four principal legal holidays occurring during the winter season the Museum has for many years given lectures free to the public, no tickets being required for admission. The programme for the current season follows. The doors open at 2:45 and the lectures begin at 3:15.

Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1906.— E. O. HOVEY, "Volcanoes,"

Christmas Day, December 25, 1906.— LOUIS P. GRATACAP, "Iceland: Its Scenery and Inhabitants,"

New Year's Day, January 1, 1907.— FRANK M. CHAPMAN, "The Home-Life of Flamingoes,"

Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1907.— HARLAN I. SMITH, "The Five American Nations: Conquerors of the Snow, Forest, Mist, Desert and Plain."

PEOPLE'S COURSE.

THE programme of illustrated Free Lectures to the People for January is as follows:

Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock.

January 8.— E. C. Culver. "The Yellowstone National Park."

January 15.— Colvin B. Brown. "The Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Yosemite valley."

January 22.— J. W. Fairbank. "Ramona and the Land of Sunshine."
January 29.— George Wharton James. "Primitive Inventions. What We Owe to the Indian Inventor."
February 5.— "The Religion of the Southwest Indians."

Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock.

A course of lectures by Professor H. E. Crampton, Columbia University.

January 5.— "Principles of Organic Evolution."
January 12.— "The Anatomical Evidence of Evolution."
January 19.— "Development as Evidence of Evolution."
January 26.— "The Evidence of Fossils."

These lectures are given in coöperation with the Department of Education of the City of New York. They are open free to the public and no tickets are required for admittance, except in the case of children, who, on account of the regulations of the Department of Education, will be admitted only on presentation of the ticket of a Member of the Museum.

The doors open at 7:30 o'clock and close when the lectures begin.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Meetings of the New York Academy of Sciences and Affiliated Societies are held at the Museum according to the following schedule:

On Monday evenings, The New York Academy of Sciences:
First Mondays, Section of Geology and Mineralogy.
Second Mondays, Section of Biology.
Third Mondays, Section of Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry.
Fourth Mondays, Section of Anthropology and Psychology.

On Tuesday evenings, as announced:
The Linnæan Society, The New York Entomological Society and the Torrey Botanical Club.

On Wednesday evenings, as announced:
The New York Mineralogical Club.

The programme of meetings of the respective organizations is issued in the weekly "Bulletin" of the New York Academy of Sciences and sent to the members of the several societies. Members of the Museum on making request of the Director will be provided with these circulars as they are published.

The following lectures have been given at the Museum recently through coöperation with the Academy:

October 29.— Dr. F. A. Lucas, "Elephants, Past and Present."
November 19.— Professor C. L. Poor, "The Proposed Astronomical and Nautical Museum for New York City."
December 5.— Charles Truax, "The Yellowstone National Park."

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The American Museum Journal

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